

# MENTONE GIRLS' SECONDARY COLLEGE

# NEWSLETTER

courage & work



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**Edition 18 | 10 November 2016**

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

I have been at MGSC just over two weeks as Principal and I have been enjoying every moment of my time here. I have visited three sausage sizzles so far (my favourite snack usually only reserved for Bunnings on a Sunday) and enjoyed the incidental conversations with the students and staff out in the yard. The most rewarding aspect of being a Principal is to become part of the school community and through these interactions I am able to glean the aspirations of the students and staff.

As I greeted all the students at the whole College assembly last Friday and joined in singing the school song, I was pleased that I remembered the words so well. I was here the year that Mandy Van Zanen wrote this song and it is still a wonderful celebration of an aspirational school rich in history.

Whilst the Year 12 students, and the Year 11 students studying a unit 3/4 subject, have been undertaking exams, the remaining year levels have been completing their 2016 task for the year. The Year 10 and 11 students will soon be getting ready for their Orientation Day next week which will prepare them for Headstart the following week.

I enjoyed spending time with the international students who celebrated the Diwali festival. Diwali is the biggest and the brightest of all Hindu festivals. It's the festival of lights (deep = light and avari = a row i.e., a row of lights) that is marked by four days of celebration around the world. Historically, the origin of Diwali can be traced back to ancient India, when it was most likely related to an important harvest festival. The most wonderful part of this celebration was the involvement of the local students in fostering an environment of inclusiveness, friendship and global awareness. This is a sign that Mentone Girls' Secondary College is a place where every member of the school community is welcome and can flourish.



Ms Linda Brown  
Principal

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### DATES

for your **DIARY!**

**Nov 14** – 2017 Yr 11  
Orientation Day

**Nov 15** – 2017 Yr 12 Orientation Day

**Nov 16** – 2017 Yr 10 Orientation Day

**Nov 18** – 2017 Yr 9 Orientation Day

**Nov 22** – Presentation Evening

Check the **Key Dates** for more important dates!



## COLLEGE MATTERS

### Blazer Pocket Information

In consultation with our uniform supplier, Costume World in Cheltenham, various items of uniform will be replaced with the new logo once existing stocks are sold. All items of uniform will be expected to have the new logo for the commencement of the 2018 school year.

The following arrangement applies for the transition of our 'old' blazer pockets to those with the new logo.

There are two types of blazers currently in circulation: those with a sewn in lining and those with a zip lining. The price for adjustments depends on which type of blazer is returned, and whether it has been dry-cleaned beforehand. Colour matching may not be 100% due to wear/fading of blazers due to cleaning and general wear, and also the slight pigment changes in fabric from batch to batch.

Following Presentation Evening on 22nd November, all blazers can be returned to Costume World so they can be sent to the manufacturer who will replace old pockets with a closely matched new pocket.

Blazers must be received at Costume World by 26th November so all work can be completed in readiness for collection in January. Blazers returned after this date will incur an additional charge (\$5 -\$10 depending on when the blazer is handed in to Costume World). ALL blazers must be clearly named with either an iron on/sewn on nametag, or very clear indelible fabric pen.

Costs for this to occur are met by College families, with the following options:

#### PRICE FROM THE SUPPLIER:

- For a blazer with the zip lining: Dry-cleaning \$8.50, return freight \$2, supply & sew pocket \$27.50  
TOTAL COST \$38. If blazer is freshly dry-cleaned by customer \$29.50 for supply & sew & return freight
- For a blazer with a sewn in lining: Dry-cleaning \$8.50, return freight \$2, supply & sew pocket \$35.50  
TOTAL COST \$46.00. If blazer is freshly dry-cleaned by customer \$37.50 for supply & sew & return freight
- Supply pocket only \$20.

#### PRICE FROM THE COSTUME WORLD TAILOR:

- For the blazers with a zip lining it will be \$12 + (\$20 for the pocket) total \$32.
- For the blazers with a sewn in lining it will be \$18 + (\$20 for the pocket) total \$38.

Families will need proof of dry-cleaning (i.e receipt) when they hand their blazers in (OHS requirement). This is not negotiable.

Please ensure you put all of the key dates in your diary to ensure this process goes smoothly for your family. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

### Adjusted Program following Presentation Evening

Presentation Evening is held on Tuesday 22nd November. On Wednesday 23rd November there will be a late start. There will not be a period 1 class. Students are to arrive at school at recess (10.05-10.25am) in readiness for the commencement of period 2 (10.30am).

Ms Carol Duggan  
Assistant Principal

## ELEARNING

### mConnect 1:1 Program

The College 1:1 mConnect Program continues to be an integral part of all subjects. Technology and online resources are being used in many ways, including curriculum delivery, student assessment, communication, collaboration, group work, design, publication, etc. Teachers are continuously refining and developing new ways of using technology for student learning.

1:1 Program information has recently been sent home to parents of students in Year 8. This information explains the computer devices that may be used in Year 9, along with the required specifications of these devices. If you have not yet seen this information, please ask your daughter about it.

Details of the Junior School iPad Program have also been sent to parents of incoming Year 7 students, following the recent Year 6-7 Information Evening.

mConnect 1: 1 Program details can also be found at: <http://mgsc.vic.edu.au/curriculum/elearning/>

### Online Course Subscriptions for 2017

Copies of the 2017 booklists are currently being sent home with students. Students who have been absent can collect their booklist from the Curriculum Office.

Please make sure that your daughter is prepared for her 2017 courses. As well as hard copy texts from Campion, the following online subscriptions are also required:

- JacPlus LearnOn Digital Bundle - Years 7-10 (Purchase from the Jacaranda Parent Payment Portal)
- Education Perfect - Science and Languages - Years 7-10 (Purchase from the Education Perfect Parent Payment Portal)
- Mathletics - Years 7-10 (Purchase via the Campion website)

Booklist and online subscription details can also be found at: <http://mgsc.vic.edu.au/curriculum/booklists/>

Mr Jonathan Hall  
Director of eLearning

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM & ELC NEWS

Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, was celebrated in the ELC earlier this month. Students and staff sampled several delicious dishes, including a sweet called halwa, and had the opportunity to recreate a pattern using the art form 'rangoli'. There were raffle prizes and speeches welcoming Ms Brown to our College, thanking Mr Russell for his support of the International Student Program, and explaining the significance of the festival.



In the same week, ELC students and Peer Support students went to Sovereign Hill to learn more about life in the goldfields of Ballarat. The experience of descending into the Red Hill Mine was eerie, whilst panning for gold was exciting as many found some gold speckles. For many, the highlight was sampling the boiled lollies made daily at Sovereign Hill.

Ms Ekaterina Xanthopoulos  
ISP & ELC Manager



## MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

On the 3rd November Middle School celebrated the Semester 2 Quiet Achievers with a morning tea. The Principal, Linda Brown, and the Assistant Principal in charge of Middle School, Carol Duggan, presented the certificates. The Year 10 students were treated to their last Middle School BBQ as they head toward exams and enter into Senior School. We wish them well and hope they will be able to be proud of their hard work.

Orientation Days, Peer Support training and exam feedback will occur the week commencing 12th November. Please see emails and the Key Dates in this newsletter for details.

Middle School Team

## SCIENCE

### NYSF students enjoy an afternoon with the Governor

On Monday 17th October, we attended an afternoon reception at Government House with other NYSF students who will be participating in the National Youth Science Form in Canberra next year. The Honourable Linda Dessau AM and a representative of NYSF each gave a quick speech, congratulating us on our achievement of being accepted into the program and inspiring us as leaders of tomorrow to follow what we enjoy and to always do our best.

Tara Graves, Year 11



## ENGLISH

Below are the following placegetters for the Public Speaking Competition which was conducted during week four of this term. The standard was impressively high and all winning speakers were able to deliver with confidence, conviction, strong articulation and were successful in engaging their audience throughout.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Maia Lafferty	Gemma Maguire	Alex Webb	Megan Clarke
Nisha Makam	Madeline Geist	Angelina Mistretta	Sally Walker
Ocean Kasidis	Ashli Sali	Emily Kain	Selin Gunes

Ms Anne Gamble  
English Domain Leader

## LANGUAGES

### Languages Awards 2016

The following girls received awards for their high achievement, consistent efforts, and positive attitudes in French and Japanese classes. Congratulations!

#### FRENCH

7A	Sasha Formston
7B	Sophie Johnson
7C	Jemma Cree
7D	Nellie Hutchinson
8A	Monique Woolard
8B	Brianna Gendall
8C	Julia Caulfield
8D	Lily Hongsamat
9A	Zoe Day
9B	Isabelle Jacques
10A	Nicola Reeves

#### JAPANESE

7E	Olivia Rybinski
7F	Maisie Taylor
7G	Madeleine Corkhill
7H	Amy Sin
8E	Chloe Boul
8F	Nazanin Jalali
8G	Katrina Oyarzun
8H	Lily Hernan
9A	Jenisara Yodmanee
9B	Jenny Ung
10A	Montanna Bullivant
10B	Sevin Park

Mr Allan Trigellis-Smith  
Languages Domain Leader

## MATHS@MGSC

### Exam Advice

- Wrap up your final revision with a quick review of areas that may have posed the greatest challenge
- Do a final practise exam if you have time
- Do not spend hours and hours 'cramming'
- Have a full night's sleep before every exam
- Ensure you have all the necessary writing implements
- Check you calculator and batteries – carry a spare set with you, just in case
- Bound references (when permitted) need to be secure. Use these to cross-check important formulae and problem approaches, but do not spend too long using these during exams.
- During the exam:
  - use reading time to scan all material and work through as many
  - multiple choice questions as possible
  - set time limits for questions and try to stick to these
  - allow time at the end of the exam to review your answers
  - do not change multiple choice answers unless you are certain your original selection is incorrect

- After the exam:
  - smile and take some time to relax
  - do not spend hours analysing your efforts and responses – time to move on
  - start your final preparations for your next exam or celebrate your last exam
- Last but not least, just do your best. In exams and life generally, that is all we can ask.

## Congratulations

We extend our best wishes to all the students who received Maths Awards at our College Assembly on 4th November. These related to Maths Challenge, UNSW/ICAS and Education Perfect competitions run earlier in the year – recipients have been listed in previous newsletters and school notices.

Two other special Maths Awards were presented as follows:

- Kristine Sohn 11G – Santos-Brown Award for our highest performing Specialist Maths Unit 1 & 2 student
- Tamika Sheehan 10C – Hughes-McLeod Award for excellence of effort in our Foundation Maths subject

Well done to all students involved.

Less than 25 school days until the end of the year, so do your best and remember... "Maths makes a real and imaginary difference."

Maths Curriculum Area Team

## SPORT

### Cricket

Our Year 7 and 8 cricket teams recently played in the Regional finals

in Hampton at Boss James Reserve. Both teams had some wins in the round robin and enjoyed the day immensely. We were not strong enough to get through to the State finals, yet we have come away wiser and stronger, ready for 2017. Well done girls!

Our sights are now set on the State Year 8 Basketball finals. Miss Jarvis and her team of girls will be giving it their all on the 14/11. Best of luck!

Mr Phil Hull  
Interschool Sport Coordinator

**Don't forget to visit [www.mgscsports.com](http://www.mgscsports.com) for sports news!**

## BFF FOREVER: WHEN FRIENDSHIPS GO SOUR

By Jenny Brockis

Emotional intelligence remains a work in progress throughout our lives. Dr Jenny Brockis offers parents tips to help children deal with emotional pain.

### Tips to help your child deal with emotional pain

#### Allow them to grieve

Pain hurts and that's normal. Social pain hurts as much as physical pain because they share common neural pathways. Share with your child that you're sorry they are hurting to help them learn that emotions are normal, and that it's normal too to feel that their whole world has temporarily turned upside down.

#### Encourage them to step away from the situation

When up close it can get very personal. Encourage your child to look at the situation from the other person's perspective to ease their pain; even though they may not fully understand why the other person acted in the way they did or said those horrid things. This helps them to reframe what happened, elevates empathy and builds resilience to future hurts. What doesn't work is returning fire with fire or blocking communication routes. A nasty comment on Facebook is best not responded to. However, telling your child to not use social media or to ban access to Facebook or their phone isolates them further and means they can't reach out to their other friends for support.

#### Offer time and an open ear

Sometimes what helps the most is to just be there. Offering support so they know you care with a kiss or a cuddle and encouragement to do some 'normal' things is what counts, as well as being available to just listen when required. It's about understanding, not interrogation. They don't necessarily want our advice!

#### Move forward with respect and dignity

A great friendship is a thing of joy, but many will wax and wane for a variety of reasons. Helping your child to celebrate what makes them feel good about any relationship leads to greater acceptance and tolerance of difference.

Emotional intelligence remains a work in progress throughout our lives. It's something that can always be built on and added to. Helping our children develop their EQ equips them to know they will survive when a relationship goes pear shaped, and increase resilience to life's knocks. This has to be one of the greatest gifts as parents we can give to our kids.

*Dr Jenny Brockis is the Brain Fitness Doctor, author of Future Brain: The 12 Keys to Create Your High-Performance Brain and mother to two young adults.*

# KEY DATES | NOVEMBER 2016

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Blue Week		1	2	3	4	5	6
Gold Week	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			Year 7 & 8 Band Evening				
				Yr 9 Exams			
				Yr 10 Exams			
							Yr 11 Exams
							Yr 12 Exams
Blue Week	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2017 Yr 11 Orientation Day 7B & 7F VSMF Excursion; <i>Federation Square</i>		2017 Yr 12 Orientation Day Peer Support Training Day		2017 Yr 10 Orientation Day 8B & 8F VSMF Excursion; <i>Federation Square</i>		2017 Yr 9 Orientation Day	
				Exam feedback lessons			
							Yr 12 Exams
Gold Week	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		8pm Presentation Evening					
							Headstart – Week 1
Blue Week	28	29	30				
			Headstart – Week 2				
							Remember: <b>SCHOOL ATTENDANCE – EVERY DAY COUNTS</b>

# KEY DATES | DECEMBER 2016

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Blue Week				1	2 Last day 2017 Yr 11 & 12	3	4
				Headstart – Week 2			
Gold Week	5	6 Grade 6 Orientation Day	7	8 NEWSLETTER #20	9 Reports available online	10	11
	Headstart – Week 3						
Blue Week	12 Junior School Planning Day	13 Last day 2017 Yrs 8 - 10	14	15	16	17	18
	Headstart – Week 4		Environment days – alternative program				
Gold Week	19 Staff PD Day (Pupil free)	20 Staff planning day Last day of Term 4	21	22	23	24	25
	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS						
Blue Week	26	27	28	29	30	31	
	SCHOOL HOLIDAYS						